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# POLICY ON USE OF HUMAN CADAVERIC SPECIMENS IN TEACHING

This document establishes policies on the use of human cadaveric specimens in teaching Psychology courses.

## Rationale

Human cadaveric specimens can be an effective teaching tool in some graduate and undergraduate courses in the Department of Psychology. These materials are utilized as a real life representation of human anatomical features including the inherent variation present in individuals making up any community. Although these specimens serve as a key resource, it is critical that every student not lose sight of the source of these resources and how they come to be available within the program.

The anatomical specimens utilized within the University are provided through the gracious generosity of individuals from families in Southern Alberta who agree to have their remains used for educational purposes at the time of death. As such, ALL anatomical specimens (including skeletal preparations and individual organs) must be treated with the same regard and respect as would be appropriate for any person (recognizing that these specimens represent an individual, like any other you may interact with during the course of your education).

Due to the requirements of demonstrating specimens for study, these individuals may be presented in a manner that would be disturbing to their families or non-medical members of the general public. In order to protect everyone involved and to demonstrate our regard for these gracious individuals who have entrusted us with such sensitive and personal material, it is absolutely critical that no photographs be generated that include these specimens, even inadvertently. Therefore, the Department of Psychology has a strict policy that NO photography is allowed in the anatomical laboratories and the specimens will be treated with the highest regard at all times.

## Procedure

The above rationale should be reviewed with all students by the instructor prior to using human cadaveric specimens in a classroom or laboratory.

In the case of specimens that are stored within the Department of Psychology, a copy of this policy will be stored alongside the specimens to remind the Instructor of the policy and procedure.

All specimens need to be stored securely in a locked location.